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## BREAKING NEWS

In the last 24 hours, Wisconsin has reported its first three deaths due to COVID-19. They include three males – one in his 50s from Fond du Lac County, another in his 90s from Ozaukee County, and the final is a 66 year old man from Milwaukee.

**\*\*\*It was erroneously reported earlier today that the state of Wisconsin would be shutting down and a shelter-in-place order had been given. That is NOT the case.\*\*\***

Today, Evers updated his previous order on mass gatherings to clarify and extend further protections. They include:

- Restaurants and bars are to be treated the same – bars will be able to have carryout sales of alcohol and food;
- Hair salons, day spas, nail salons, barber shops, tattoo parlors, body art establishments and tanning facilities must close by 5PM on March 20<sup>th</sup>;
- Media and news orgs can remain open;
- Laundromats may remain open;
- Banks, credit unions and other financial institutions may remain open and employ social distancing practices;
- All forms of food delivery systems – from farms to stores – remain open;

- Cafeterias in healthcare facilities may remain open to serve healthcare workers;
  - All parts of our transportation system can continue.
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## DAILY UPDATES - MARCH 20, 2020

### State Updates:

- As of yesterday, the [Wisconsin National Guard announced it has mobilized approx. 300 troops](#) to help provide further assistance, if necessary.
  - Major General Paul Knapp, Wisconsin's adjutant general, [provided a video update](#) about the steps they are taking today.
- South of our boarder, [Illinois Governor JB Pritzker placed his state under a stay at home order](#).
  - [Governor Evers has indicated that there is no plan to follow suit](#) in Wisconsin at this time.
- With reports that unemployment insurance claims continue to rise, a number of companies have announced they're looking to ramp up hiring in Wisconsin. [Amazon looks to hire 700 in WI. Roundy's to hire 2,500 in WI.](#)
- In anticipation of receiving federal support for small businesses through the Small Business Administration, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation has created a checklist of items businesses may utilize to prepare for the application process. [These resources can be found here.](#)
- UW System President Cross announced that all UW institutions will be refunding prorated charges for housing and dining for the remainder of the spring semester. [Read the announcement here.](#)
- [The Dept. of Natural Resources says they will keep state parks and trails open](#) until further notice.

- [The Office of the Commissioner of Insurance is offering guidance to insurers regarding compliance with reg. requirements.](#)
- The Dept. of Ag and Consumer Protection this afternoon [released news that the state's fuel supply remains in stable condition.](#)

#### Federal Updates

- [Homeland Security today announced that new travel restrictions will go into effect on March 21 to restrict all non-essential travel across the US-Canadian border.](#)
  - [A similar agreement was announced today between the US and Mexico.](#)
- [The Treasury Dept. today announced that it is delaying the deadline for filing \*\*federal\*\* returns from April 15 to July 15.](#)
- [The Dept. of Education has indicated that they will waive standardized testing requirements for the current school year. States must apply for this waiver.](#)
  - [Education Secretary DeVos also noted that Federal Student Aid is moving to provide student loan relief during the COVID emergency. All borrowers with federally held student loans will automatically have their interest rates set to 0% for at least 60 days. Borrowers would also be able to suspend their payments by at least two months.](#)
- The College Board has announced AP testing scheduled for May will now take place online. This comes after the group has already canceled SAT testing and more. [Read for further info.](#)
- When asked today during a White House press briefing, the President indicated that he has invoked the Defense Production Act.
  - This will help to speed up and expand the supply of resources for the country, particularly related to medical supplies.

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

### *GOP COVID-19 Webpage*

- [The Assembly GOP Caucus has launched a new GOP COVID-19 webpage.](#) It will serve as a resource for up-to-date information, links to DHS and CDC information, graphics, and more.

### *Education*

- Governor Evers has directed the Dept. of Health Service to mandate a statewide closure of all K-12 schools. All schools will be closed beginning Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, and will remain closed through the duration of the public health emergency.
- [The Dept. of Public Instruction \(DPI\) has said they will waive a state mandated hour requirement](#) to districts requesting to do so. Districts will need to file for a waiver; DPI is working to ensure an expedited process.
- There are options for children who were participants in the Child Nutrition Program at school and may be facing food insecurity during the break.
  - [While School Food Authorities \(SFAs\) are not required to provide meals during a dismissal, they are encouraged to ensure that the needs of low-income children are met during extended school dismissals.](#)
  - Check with your local school districts for information regarding meals for children during the school closure.

### *Dining*

- Despite the Governor's orders to close all restaurants and bars, take-out and delivery services are still permissible.
  - The [Wisconsin Restaurant Association has worked to compile a list of participating restaurants](#) offering such services.

### *Voting*

- Ahead of Wisconsin's spring election, absentee ballots are available until Thursday, April 2. Additionally, Friday, April 3 is the last day for individuals to vote early, in-person.
- For more information on early or absentee voting, registration, and polling locations, visit [myvote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov).
- The [Wisconsin Elections Commission](#) has a list of all clerks, as well as any recent communications.

### ***Ways You Can Help***

- Give Blood – [click here](#) to find a blood drive/donation center near you.
  - The Red Cross has indicated cancellations of blood appointments are at record highs. Encourage others to donate if they are healthy.
- Local food banks are asking for your assistance
- The United Way and other [groups have created an online portal for those looking for volunteering opportunities in their community](#).
- [Help your local small businesses](#). Grab a meal for take-out or buy gift cards and shop online from local businesses to help them stay afloat during this time of uncertainty.
- Volunteer to pick up groceries or prescriptions for elderly in your community, or volunteer with a local organization who provides these services (ie: Meals on Wheels).
- Limit stockpiling, as grocery stores will remain open.

### ***Services***

- Internet:
  - [Charter is providing free Spectrum broadband and Wi-Fi access for 60 days](#) to households with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have a Spectrum broadband subscription and at any service level up to 100 Mbps. To enroll, call 1-844-488-8395
  - [Comcast is increasing speeds from 15/2 Mbps to 25/3 Mbps for all customers, and new customers are receiving two months](#)

of free service. More information on Comcast's Internet Essentials program can be found here.

- TDS is providing free broadband access for new K-12, college student households for 60 days.
- Unemployment:
  - Information relating to unemployment benefits and COVID-19 can be found on the Dept. of Workfoce Development's informational page.
    - Applicants are encourage to apply for benefits online.
- Kids:
  - Scholastic offers free online courses for children.
  - 50 activities parents can do with their kids during shutdown.